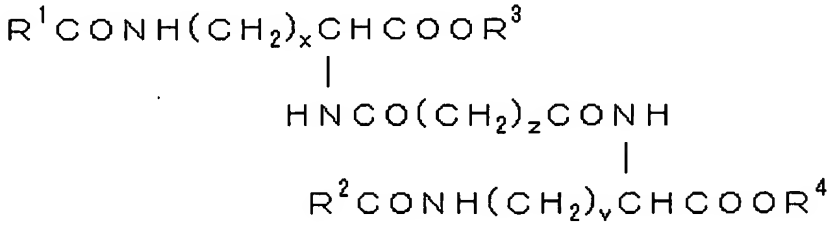
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A basic amino acid derivative represented by ~~the following~~ formula ~~(1).~~ (1) or a salt thereof:



(1)

~~(In the formula,~~ wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently is a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl or alkenyl group having 5 to 21 carbon atoms,

R^3 and R^4 each independently is an alkyl or alkenyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atom(s), hydrogen atom, alkaline metal or alkaline earth metal ~~in which~~, wherein the alkyl or alkenyl group may be either in straight-chain or branched-chain or may have a cyclic structure,

z is an integer of 0 or more and

x and y each is an integer of 2 to ~~4.)~~ 4.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The basic amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein z in ~~the above~~ formula (1) ~~is~~ ranges from 0 to 10.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The basic amino acid according to claim 1, wherein z in ~~the above~~ formula (1) is 0.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The basic amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein each of R^1 and R^2 ~~each~~ in ~~the above~~ formula (1) is a straight-chain alkyl group having 11 carbon atoms.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The basic amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein each of R^3 and R^4 ~~each~~ in ~~the above~~ formula (1) is an alkaline metal or an alkaline earth metal.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A gelling agent or a solidifying agent ~~which is characterized in containing~~ comprising at least one ~~member of the~~ basic amino acid derivative ~~mentioned in~~ according to claim 1.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~Gel which is characterized in containing~~ A gel comprising at least one ~~member of the~~ basic amino acid derivative ~~mentioned in~~ according to claim 1.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A ~~perfumery/cosmetic which is characterized in containing~~ perfumery or cosmetic comprising at least one ~~member of the~~ basic amino acid derivative ~~mentioned in~~ according to claim 1.

Claim 9 (New): The basic amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein each of R^1 and R^2 independently is a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl or alkenyl group having 7 to 11 carbon atoms.

Claim 10 (New): The basic amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein at least one of R^3 and R^4 in formula (1) is an alkaline metal, wherein said alkaline metal is selected from the group consisting of sodium and potassium.

Claim 11 (New): The basic amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein at least one of R^3 and R^4 in formula (1) is an alkaline earth metal, wherein said alkaline earth metal is selected from the group consisting of magnesium and calcium.

Claim 12 (New): The gelling agent or a solidifying agent according to claim 6, further comprising at least one other gelling agent or solidifying agent selected from the group consisting of N-acyl-L-glutamic acid dialkylamide, polyamide resin, 12-hydroxystearic acid, sodium stearate, dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol, fatty acid dextrin, and gelatin.

Claim 13 (New): The gelling agent or a solidifying agent according to claim 6, further comprising at least one surface-active agent selected from the group consisting of an anionic surface-active agent, a nonionic surface-active agent a cationic surface-active agent, and an amphoteric surface-active agent.

Claim 14 (New): The gelling agent or a solidifying agent according to claim 6, further comprising at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an amino acid, a polyhydric alcohol, a water-soluble polymer, a sugar alcohol; a lower alcohol, an animal extract, a plant extract, a nucleic acid, a vitamin, an enzyme, an anti-inflammatory agent, a bactericide, an antiseptic, an antioxidant, an ultraviolet-absorber, a chelating agent, an antiperspirant, a pigment, a dye, an oxidation dye, an organic powder, an inorganic powders, a pH-adjusting agent, a pearling agent, and a moisturizer.

Claim 15 (New): The gelling agent or a solidifying agent according to claim 6, further comprising at least one powder selected from the group consisting of a resin powder, Nylon powder, metal fatty acid soap, yellow iron oxide, red iron oxide, black iron oxide, chromium oxide, cobalt oxide, carbon black, ultramarine blue, Prussian blue, zinc oxide, titanium oxide, zirconium oxide, silicon oxide, aluminum oxide, cerium oxide, mica titanium, boron nitride, barium sulfate, calcium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, aluminum silicate, magnesium silicate, silicon carbide, pigment, lake, sericite, mica, talc, kaolin, barium sulfate with a plate shape, barium sulfate with a butterfly shape, fine particles of titanium oxide, fine particles of zinc oxide, fine particles of iron oxide and acylamino acid such as acyllysine, acylglutamic acid, acylarginine and acylglycine.

Claim 16 (New): A method of gelling or solidifying a liquid organic medium comprising

adding the basic amino acid derivative according to claim 1 to said liquid organic medium to obtain a mixture;

heating the mixture to obtain a homogenous state; and

incubating the mixture at ambient temperature.

Claim 17 (New): The method according to claim 16, wherein the liquid organic medium comprises at least only liquid selected from the group consisting of mineral oil, animal oil, plant oil, a hydrocarbon, an ester, an ether, a cyclic ether, a ketone, an aldehyde, a lower alcohol, a silicone oil, a halogenated liquid, and highly polar organic solvent.

Claim 18 (New): The method according to claim 16, wherein said heating is at a temperature ranging from 50 to 120 °C.

Claim 19 (New): The method according to claim 16, wherein said basic amino acid derivative is added at a concentration ranging from 1 to 400 parts by weight to 1000 parts by weight of the liquid medium.

Claim 20 (New): The method according to claim 16, wherein said basic amino acid derivative is added at a concentration ranging from 1 to 200 parts by weight to 1000 parts by weight of the liquid medium.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-8 have been amended.

Claims 9-20 have been added.

The amendment of Claims 1-8 is supported by the corresponding claims as originally filed. Support for new Claims 9-20 is found in the specification as originally filed, for example at page 7, line 23 to page 19, line 11.

No new matter has been added by the present amendment.